

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015
6:30PM AT TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
240 SPRINGFIELD STREET, WILBRAHAM, MA
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Robert W. Russell (presiding); Selectmen Robert J. Boilard and Susan C. Bunnell, Interim Town Administrator Thomas Sullivan, and Candace Ouillette Gaumond, Administrative Assistant to the TA/BOS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, or individual

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel

Chairman Russell announced that the Board was going into Executive Session; and upon conclusion, the Board would resume the general session of the meeting.

MOTION: Made (Boilard) and seconded (Bunnell) to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, or individual and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel; and upon conclusion adjourn to return to open session. The motion was approved by each Selectman voting affirmatively in a roll call vote. (Boilard, yes; Bunnell, yes; and Russell, yes.)
Approved 3-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen returned from Executive Session at 7:16pm. Chairman Russell opened the meeting and asked all to join him in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD

Candidate Interview for the Agriculture Commission – Richard Hoffman

Richard Hoffman, candidate for the Agricultural Commission, and Rob Anderson, Chairman, of the Agricultural Commission, joined the Selectmen at the front of the room. Mr. Anderson spoke highly of Dr. Hoffman; and mentioned that the Agricultural Commission is recommending the appointment of Dr. Hoffman to the Commission.

Dr. Hoffman introduced himself, and shared his educational, which includes Master's Degree from Ohio State University and doctoral degree from Princeton University in chemical engineering, and personal background with the Selectmen and audience. He also informed that he managed *God's Little Acre* on Main Street, which produced vegetables for the Community Survival Center and other charitable organizations. Currently, Dr. Hoffman is working on re-establishing the American Chestnut Tree. Dr. Hoffman imparted historical information about the American Chestnut Tree. He is on the Board of The American Chestnut Foundation, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapter, whose goal is to bring back American Chestnut Trees. He explained how the Board is working to re-establish the American Chestnut Tree, through crossing the American Chestnut Tree genes with Chinese Trees. Dr. Hoffman described that the Board is looking for land in Wilbraham to plant the seeds of the new American Chestnut Trees. He proposes planting the trees along the access road to Minnechaug Regional High School located on Tinkham Road. He also suggested getting students or science teachers involved in this effort. Dr. Hoffman mentioned that this is part of his interest in getting involved in the Agricultural Commission.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Agricultural Commission sees Dr. Hoffman's work as a nice fit for the Commission and Wilbraham. Selectman Boilard commented that the idea about planting the trees along the High School's access road is a great idea. He suggested outreaching to the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District School Committee. Dr. Hoffman shared a book he has on the American Chestnut Tree. Chairman Russell suggested planting some of the trees in front of Town Hall.

Selectman Bunnell asked if the blight, which killed the American Chestnut Trees, was still present. Dr. Hoffman stated yes. He mentioned some of the trees that carry blight, such as Sumac.

Mr. Anderson also shared that the some of the trails in Wilbraham have some large American Chestnut Trees. Selectman Bunnell suggested adding some information on the Town's website.

Chairman Russell asked for a motion. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Boilard) and seconded (Bunnell) to appoint Richard L. Hoffman to the Agriculture Commission for a three-year term, expiring on June 20, 2018. Approved 3-0.

Materials referenced: Citizen's Reply Form, received February 24, 2015, from Dr. Richard Hoffman, and Email, dated February 19, 2015, from R. Anderson, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, regarding Dr. Hoffman's candidacy for the Commission.

Update from the Agriculture Commission Regarding Wilbraham Agrihood

Mr. Anderson shared with the Selectmen that the Agricultural Commission is promoting Wilbraham Agrihood, (or aka Wilbraham Grown,) as an effort to promote agriculture in Town. According to Mr. Anderson, the idea is to give locally grown and hand picked produce to restaurants along Boston Road. The restaurants can publicize serving Wilbraham grown vegetables. He further added that this idea fits in with the Vision Taskforce's vision within the Report released awhile ago. Mr. Anderson spoke to numerous people about this idea; and there seems to be some motivation for it. Currently, Mr. Anderson reported, that there is a group meeting weekly to promote this idea. The Agricultural Commission would like to come back to the Board of Selectmen and provide a more detailed report and update as the project progresses. The Selectmen were agreeable.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that one of the Town's bylaws is in conflict. He explained the problem. The Selectmen duly noted the item and suggested that Mr. Anderson speak to the By-Law Study Committee.

Materials Referenced: Email, dated March 23, 2015, from R. Anderson, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, relative to a request to meet with the Selectmen.

LED Lighting in Town Building – Lance Trevallion, Building Inspector, Edmond Miga, Jr., Director of Public Works/Town Engineer, and Ronald Rauscher, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor

Interim Town Administrator Sullivan informed that the Town Officials were still looking into the project. Currently, the Town is trying to add more buildings to this project and get quotes for the costs of the additional buildings. Interim Town Administrator Sullivan stated that he would come back to the Selectmen next week with a full report on the agenda item. For this reason, the agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Town Administrator's Report

Interim Town Administrator Sullivan announced that the Senior Building Feasibility Sub-Committee recently toured Fountain Park as a potential site for a senior center. He then discussed the lease aspects of the project. He also mentioned that there was another property to consider.

He reported on 2451 Boston Road (former Belli's Restaurant) property. There was a possible sale for the property; however, the sale fell through because of concerns about the hazardous material in the building. Therefore, the Town is still moving forward with the foreclosure of the property.

Currently, Interim Town Administrator Sullivan is working on motions for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. He proposes to get the drafted motions out next week for the Selectmen to review. Chairman Russell asked if the meeting to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting would be scheduled so as to discuss the motions, etc. Administrative Assistant Gaumond stated the meeting will occur at the Selectmen's meeting on May 4, 2015, a week prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Interim Town Administrator Sullivan informed that the East Street Bridge is scheduled to be repaired in 2020. Currently, the Town is trying to get the repair work moved up prior to 2020. Administrative Assistant Gaumond added that Wilbraham's State Legislators are working on this matter at the state level as well.

Interim Town Administrator Sullivan mentioned that there will be changes in the budget prior to Town Meeting to include funding for the LED lighting project and training for union employees as required by the union contract.

Board of Selectmen Updates

Chairman Russell asked what the plans are for letting people know about the upcoming Town Meeting and Election. Interim Town Administrator Sullivan informed what was being done to get out the information to the community. Chairman Russell suggested the Town use Blackboard Connect to communicate the dates and times for Town Meeting and Election to residents. A discussion followed about the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. It was suggested that the budget be read as a whole as opposed to line by line during Town Meeting so as to shorten the length of time of Town Meeting. It was mentioned that this issue was explored last year. Interim Town Administrator Sullivan agreed to look into it.

Citizens Open Forum

Suzanne McLaughlin, Reporter from Springfield Republican newspaper, asked if there was a question on the ballot relative to appointing a Tree Warden. Interim Town Administrator Sullivan stated yes. Ms. McLaughlin asked why. Selectman Boilard responded the reason is to have stability.

John Broderick, resident, asked a question if the Warrant's language would provide an explanation of the Articles. Interim Town Administrator Sullivan responded that the explanation is on the Warrant booklet which is being mailed to residents via insert in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times. Mr. Broderick thanked the Selectmen for the invitation to attend Town Meeting, which he got in the mail.

Mr. Broderick asked about the Mount Marcy application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). He wanted to know if there would be any follow up on that matter. Selectman Boilard stated that he spoke with members of the CPC; and each individual on the Committee claimed to have a reason for denying the application. He further added that there was no indication that the members were coerced. Selectman Boilard informed Mr. Broderick that it's too late to bring the application before Town Meeting at this point. However, Mr. Gagliarducci, owner of the property, expressed willingness to bring the project forward again next year. Mr. Broderick raised an issue about the CPC. He thinks there will be a push next year to get the Committee to listen. Discussion ensued. Mr. Broderick stated that he will write a letter to the Selectmen about how the Committee is mandated to act and include the public's input. Chairman Russell informed that the Board of Selectmen has confidence in the people who are appointed on the Town's Committees.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Disclosure of Financial Interest of Non-Elected Employee

Chairman Russell reported that there is an applicant, who is related to the Chief and Captain, for Firefighter/EMT position at the Fire Department. Therefore, the Chief and Captain are recusing themselves from the hiring process.

MOTION: Made (Boilard) and seconded (Bunnell) to accept the forms Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Determination by Appointing Authority as Required by M.G.L. 268A Section 23(b)(3) from Captain Peter Nothe and Chief Francis Nothe. Approved 3-0.

Materials referenced: Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest As Required by GL C. 268A § 23(b)(3) and § 19, Forms completed by Captain P. Nothe, Wilbraham Fire Department, and Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest As Required by GL C. 268A § 23(b)(3) Form completed by Chief F. Nothe, Wilbraham Fire Department.

LICENSING AND OTHER APPROVALS

Request for Use of Public Property – Viridian Energy

Chairman Russell announced the next agenda item. He then asked if the Selectmen had any questions. No questions were offered. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Boilard) and seconded (Bunnell) to approve the use of public sidewalks and roads for River Road and River Edge Clean Up event, scheduled for April 11, 2015, (rain date: April 12, 2015) from 9:00am to 11:30am along River Road and Old Boston Road in Wilbraham; and forward the event notice to public safety officials for a public safety review. Approved 3-0.

Material Referenced: Request for Use of Public Property for Special Event Application, received on March 30, 2015, submitted by Viridian Energy.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

March 2, 2015 executive session

March 2, 2015

March 7, 2015

March 16, 2015

March 16, 2015 executive session

March 30 executive session

March 30, 2015

Chairman Russell announced the minutes to be reviewed. He then asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes. No changes or additions were offered. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Boilard) and seconded (Bunnell) to approve the executive session minutes of March 30, 2015 as submitted. Approved 3-0.

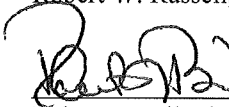
Having no further business, the Board of Selectmen adjourned at 8:00pm.



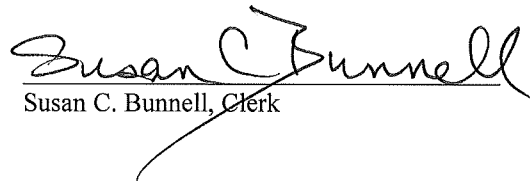
Candace Ouillette Gaumond
Administrative Assistant to the TA/BOS



Robert W. Russell, Chairman



Robert J. Boilard, Vice Chairman



Susan C. Bunnell, Clerk